

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A device for directing energy to a target area of skin, comprising:

an energy source that emits energy;

an intermediate substance that contacts the target area of skin, and blocks the emitted energy from directly striking the target area; and

an absorbing material embedded in the intermediate substance that absorbs at least a portion of the emitted energy, and thereby provides heat to the target area in an amount that causes pores in the target area to expand.

22. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance is a suspension containing high absorbing particles.

23. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance is a thin film containing high absorbing particles.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance is a paper containing a highly absorbing substance.

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises agar.

29. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance is a solid mixture containing highly absorbing particles.

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance contains a liquid mixture containing highly absorbing particles.

32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises a thermal insulator containing highly absorbing particles.

34. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises a layer of thermal conductor containing highly absorbing particles.

35. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises a metallic layer containing highly absorbing particles.

36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the energy source comprises a laser.

38. (currently amended) A method of treating a skin blemish, comprising:

emitting radiative energy towards a target area of the blemish;
blocking transmission of the radiative energy to the target area by interposing an
intermediate substance that absorbs the radiative energy to produce heat; and
allowing the intermediate substance to conduct the heat to the target area to a degree that
expands pores in the target area and thereby enhance transdermal drug delivery.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the intermediate substance comprises a thin insulating material mixed with grains of material capable of absorbing at least one frequency band of the electromagnetic energy.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the emitted radiative energy comprises pulses from a laser.

41-44. (canceled)

45. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 further comprising a heat removing mechanism to remove heat from skin.

46. (currently amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the intermediate substance includes the absorbing material in sufficient density to convert at least 20% of the emitted energy to heat.

~~<pg 44, lines 8-9>.~~

47. (currently amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the intermediate substance includes a plurality of absorbing locations. ~~<pg 21, lines 8-10>.~~

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the energy source comprises a diode laser.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the radiate energy source comprises laser emissions.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the radiate energy source comprises ultrasound.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the radiate energy source comprises microwave.

52. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~38~~21, wherein the radiate energy source comprises X-ray.

53. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~38~~21, wherein the radiate energy source comprises a particle beam.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising actively cooling the target area.